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August 9, 1999

CAL-FED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM  
ATTEN: Rick Breitenbach  
1419 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1155  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

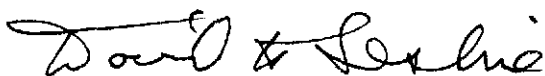
This is to express my deep concern that the CALFED Phase 2 Report still considers construction of additional major dams as a solution to California's present and future water needs. It should be evident to all thinking observers that construction of on stream surface water storage facilities are part of the problem, not part of the solution. In my view, damming of our rivers is, along with placer mining, stream channelization, and chemical contamination with agricultural pesticides and fertilizers, a major reason our rivers and fisheries are in their present deplorable state.

CALFED must give greater emphasis to other means of water conservation, such as replenishment of underground aquifers, irrigation practices and infrastructure upgrades, and municipal and industrial waste water recovery. All of these alternatives and more should be exhausted before another public dollar is spent on surface storage where adverse impacts on streams and fisheries are likely, and water loss to evaporation is severe.

Please do your part to ensure that our natural heritage is protected and revitalized rather than further degraded. Obviously economic interests must be considered, but they cannot be served at the cost of our irreplaceable natural resources. CALFED and our generation of citizens must ensure that our stewardship leaves the state of nature in California in better than we found it.

Thank you for considering my views in your decision making process. I look forward to a Phase 3 report which is much more powerful force for the restoration and preservation of our riverine ecosystems while meeting the legitimate water needs of agriculture, industry, and municipalities. I and most other Californians are willing to pay incremental increases in the cost of food, water, and the products of industry in order to assure that we and our children can continue to enjoy a healthy natural environment.

Sincerely,



David H. Sesline, D.V.M.  
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cc: Mr. Nick Di Croce  
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